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08/04/00

Sir:

Please file the following enclosed patent application papers:

Applicant #1, Name: Sarah Vogel

Applicant #2, Name: _____

Title: Hair Clip Inner Protector

☒ Specification, Claims, and Abstract: Nr. of Sheets SV 8

☐ Declaration: Date Signed: _____

☒ Drawing(s): Nr. of Sheets Enc.: Formal: _____ Informal: 4

☐ Small Entity Declaration of Inventor(s)

☐ SED of Non-Inventor / Assignee / Licensee

☒ Assignment enclosed with cover sheet and recordal fee; please record and return.

☒ Check for \$ 345 for:

☒ \$ 345 for filing fee (not more than three independent claims and twenty total claims are presented).

☐ \$ _____ additional if Assignment is enclosed for recordal.

☐ Disclosure Document Program reference letter.

☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(i), applicant(s) claim priority of Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. _____ filed _____

☒ Return Receipt Postcard Addressed to Applicant #1.

☐ **Request Under MPEP § 707.07(j):** The undersigned, a pro se applicant, respectfully requests that if the Examiner finds patentable subject matter disclosed in this application, but feels that Applicant's present claims are not entirely suitable, the Examiner draft one or more allowable claims for applicant.

Very respectfully,

Sarah Vogel
Applicant #1 Signature

Applicant #2 Signature _____

416 Seventh Ave
Address (Send Correspondence Here)

Address _____

Menlo Park, CA 94025-1845

Express Mail Label #

; Date of Deposit 199 _____

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Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Fee Transmittal

First-Named Applicant Sarah Vogel
Title of Invention: " Hair Clip Inner Protector "
Total Payment Enclosed (From Calculation Below): \$ 345 ☒ Check ☐ Money Order

Sir:
Enclosed is the following small entity filing fee for the above patent application:

Fee Code	Fee Description	Fee (\$)
214	Provisional Pat. Appn. Filing Fee	245
201	Basic Utility Appn. Filing Fee	345
206	Basic Design Appn. Filing Fee	
	Subtotal (1)	
203	Total Claims: _____ - 20 = _____ ; X _____ (fee for each claim over 20) = _____	
202	Tot. Indep. Claims _____ - 3 = _____ ; X _____ (fee for each indep. claim over 3) = _____	
	Subtotal (2)	
	Total Payment Enclosed [Sum of Subtotals (1) and (2)]	345

Very respectfully,
Sarah Vogel
Signature of First-Named Applicant
Sarah Vogel
Print Name of First-Named Applicant
416 Serenth Ave
Address
Menlo Park, CA
94025-1845

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

First/Sole Applicant: Sarah A. Vogel

Joint/Second Applicant: _____

Title: Hair Clip Inner Protector

Small Entity Declaration—Independent Inventor(s)

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35 United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to my above-identified invention described in the specification filed herewith. I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed—and am under no obligation under any contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license—any rights in the invention to either (a) any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or (b) any concern which would not qualify as either (i) a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or (ii) a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed—or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license—any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ There is no such person, concern, or organization.

☐ Any applicable person, concern, or organization is listed below:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

I acknowledge a duty to file, in the above application for patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Sarah A. Vogel
Signature of Sole/First Inventor

Sarah A. Vogel
Print Name of Sole/First Inventor

8/1/06
Date of Signature

Signature of Joint/Second Inventor

Print Name of Joint/Second Inventor

Date of Signature

*Note: A separate Small Entity Statement is required from any listed entity.

Patent Application of

Sarah A. Vogel

For

TITLE: HAIR CLIP INNER PROTECTOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND—FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to steel hair clips and other fasteners for holding a significant portion or all of a user's hair in a styled position.

BACKGROUND—DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

Typically, people who have medium to long hair, at times, prefer to wear their hair styled back away from their face and/or up away from their neck. By doing so, people enjoy a quick, easy, and cooler alternative to styling their hair down.

People with inevitably different thicknesses of hair, tend to wear their hair back or up for a significant duration of time if not all day. It is therefore desirable that the hair clip is able to accommodate a variety of hair thicknesses, secure the hair well and provide a comfortable and nonthreatening home for hair.

Clothing stores, beauty supply stores, and supermarkets commonly sell steel hair clips such as the one shown in Fig 1. These steel hair clips are large enough to hold a whole head of hair as well as supply a mount for a decorative design. While the decorative designs on these hair clips have evolved, minimal improvement to the hair clip itself has been achieved.

Originally, these hair clips were made in such a way that when they were applied, a pivotal lower arm 12, an upper arm 14, and a hinge 16 were in direct contact with the user's hair. This design had three major drawbacks.

First, the antiquated hair clip exposed the hair to the hinge. This made it possible for strands of hair to get caught in or pinched by the hinge while the hair clip was in place. This catching or pinching of the hair likely resulted in hair being broken or damaged. If the hair clip slips or is removed from the user's hair while hair strands are caught in the hinge, those strands will likely be broken, pulled, or pulled out.

Secondly, the hair clip had a strong tendency to slip down out of place. The steel adjoining arms in direct contact with the hair did not cohere to the hair nor did it compact the hair sufficiently, allowing the clip to slip during use. This slipping either reduced the aesthetic effect of the style that was achieved during the clip's initial application or allowed the clip to slip off entirely, losing all its effectiveness. Deteriorated style and diminished effectiveness reduced user satisfaction. Additionally, if strands of hair were caught in the hinge when the clip slipped, the user would experience pain and discomfort because of those strands being pulled or pulled out.

Thirdly, the hair clip did not fit well to a broad range of hair thicknesses. Due to the uncompressible nature of the steel, there was little ability for the clip to adjust to varying thicknesses of hair. This being the case, the hair clip did not provide a snug fit to hair thinner than that for which the clip was originally designed. Because the clips were in essence too big for thin hair, accelerated slippage would occur. This accelerated slippage would shorten the time it took to damage, break, pull, or pull out hair caught in the hinge. Here again, the slippage reduced the aesthetic effect and effectiveness, reducing user satisfaction of the clip.

Again, the prior art shown in Fig 1 does not do anything to prevent hair from getting caught in the hinge. The steel arms do not cohere to the hair nor compress the hair. The clip does not fit a wide range of hair thicknesses, nor does it give the needed added stability to keep the hair clip in place for a sufficient period of use. This being the situation, the prior art does not secure the hair well nor does it provide comfort and a nonthreatening home for hair, diminishing aesthetics and user satisfaction.

SUMMARY

The "hair clip inner protector" is a device for protecting and holding in place hair in a hair clip. It is material that is added to the clip which; protects hair from becoming caught or damaged by the hinge, coheres to the hair, and gives the hair clip a snugger fit to a broader range of hair thicknesses.

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of my invention are that it fits a broader range of hair thicknesses, makes the hair clip more comfortable, it stays in place better and it provides a nonthreatening home for hair.

A hair clip equipped with the inner protector provides a comfortable, safe haven for hair. With the inner protector hair will not get caught in the hinge and therefore will not be damaged or broken. And upon slippage, if any occurs, or removal of the clip, hair is not pulled or pulled out. The inner protector also adds comfort by buffering out the cold, stiff steel that used to touch up against the user's neck or head. Instead the inner protector provides a soft, temperate feel.

A hair clip equipped with the inner protector fits a broader range of hair thicknesses. By adding a layer of compressionable material to the inside of the clip, the clip becomes better suited for medium to thin hair, and can still accommodate thick hair.

A hair clip equipped with the inner protector stays in place because the material of the protector coheres to hair and compacts the hair. The original steel did not cohere to the hair. However, materials such as vinyl, velvet, rubber, etc. that make up the protector provide greater friction and are therefore more coherent to hair than steel. And by adding a layer of compressionable material to the inside of the clip, space between the upper and lower arms that is unused is displaced and hair is more compact in the hair clip. This greater compact gives the hair clip a snugger fit to a broad range of hair thicknesses. This snugger fit in addition to the more coherent material is what provides a longer lasting fit.

Other objectives and advantages are that the hair clip inner protector can be made of different materials for different hair types and personal preferences. For example, people with thick hair could use the basic vinyl or thin velvet. Someone with thin hair might want to use one that is thicker or expands more, such as neoprene. Someone with extremely straight hair might want one made out of rubber, which is more gripping.

Further objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent from a consideration of the drawings and ensuing description.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Fig 1 shows the prior art hair clip with out protector

Fig 2 shows a basic example of the shape of a hair clip inner protector before it is applied to the clip.

Fig 3 shows a hair clip wrapped with the inner protector.

Fig 4 shows an inner protector made of a different shape.

Fig 5 shows an inner protector that does not have to be wrapped.

Fig 6 shows a prefabricated inner protector.

Fig 7 shows an inner protector with adhesive strips for application.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

- 10 decorative base plate
- 12 lower arm
- 14 upper arm
- 16 hinge
- 18 clasp
- 19 eye hook
- 20 large rectangular portion (2)
- 22 small rectangular middle portion
- 30 adhesive strip

DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

The hair clip inner protector is a piece of material such as vinyl, neoprene, velvet, rubber, suede, leather, etc. cut into a basic shape seen in Fig 2. The piece of material in Fig 2 is then wrapped onto the clip in Fig 1. A large rectangular end portion 20 is wrapped around the lower arm 12 and the other large rectangular end portion 20 is wrapped around the upper arm 14. As a result, hinge 16 is covered by a small rectangular middle portion 22. The material is wrapped such that the two large rectangular portions 20 are neatly folded in two places (as one might do when folding a standard size sheet of paper to fit into a standard size envelope). The wings are folded and then glued or sown into place one on top of the other. The result is a finished product shown in Fig 3.

To take advantage of the benefits the inner protector offers, make sure that your clip is equipped with one and apply the clip the same way you normally would.

Use both hands to gather the hair you wish to clip. Generally this is at least half the thickness of your hair. Then, slide the lower arm 12 under the hair you wish to clip. Pivot a decorative plate 10 along with the attached upper arm 14 across the gathered hair so that a clasp 18 joins together with an eye hook 19. Then press the eye hook 19 into the clasp 18 in order to fasten them together.

DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION OF EMBODIMENTS

The inner protector does not have to be the exact shape or size that I have used to define it. While I prefer the shape I have outlined in Fig 2, there are certainly other shapes that could perform the same function equally well. Two examples of these additional embodiments are shown in Figs 4 and 5. In Fig 4 the material is cut into a different shape, and would still necessitate being wrapped onto the clip. In Fig 5 the material is cut into a shape that would not need to be wrapped, but merely glued into place. Also, the size of the protector may vary along with the clip's particular specifications.

The inner protector does not have to be applied to the hair clip in the way that I have described in order to be effective. Figs 6 and 7 show two other ways in which the inner protector could be applied to the hair clip while still maintaining effectiveness. Fig 6 is a pre-sewn or pre-glued inner protector that can be sold separately and then slid onto the adjoining arms into place. Simply remove the inserted upper arm from the decorative plate, slide the prefabricated protector onto the arms and reinsert the upper arm back into place. Fig 7 shows another inner protector that could also be sold separately. This one is made with an adhesive strip 30 so that you could wrap the protector around the hair clip, remove the adherent tape and seal the wings, one on top of the other.

While I have discussed making the inner protector out of vinyl, velvet, rubber neoprene, suede, leather, cotton, felt, etc., the list of materials for which you could make one are endless. As I have previously mentioned, different materials would be better suited for different hair types.

The inner protector can, and should be, made out of different colors of materials. The different colors could be representative of different colors of hair or they could be colors which are incorporated into the decorative plate.

On the one hand, the inner protector could be made out of different shades that represent various colors of hair. This way the inner protector could be camouflaged into the user's hair. Such colors would therefor represent different shades of brunette, red, black, blonde, and gray.

Or, on the other hand the color of the inner protector could match the decorative hair plate. So, for example if the decorative plate is a floral print made of whites, pinks, purples and greens, the protector could be of the same print or of a matching pink. If the decorative plate is the color gold, the inner protector could also be the color gold.

Combining the option of using different materials with the option of using different colors may result in the inner protector and decorative plate matching in both material and color. For example, both the decorative plate and the inner protector could be made of black velvet, white suede, or vinyl that is the color of a blond highlight.

Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiments illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

Claims: I claim:

1. A device for protecting and holding in place hair in hair clip comprising:
 - (a) material of a predetermined shape or specification
 - (b) means for joining said material to hair clipwhereby said material protects hair from getting caught in clip and holds hair in place.
2. The device of Claim 1 wherein said material is attached to the arms of the hair clip.
3. The device of Claim 2 wherein said material is wrapped around the clip's arms and covers the clip's hinge.

HAIR CLIP INNER PROTECTOR

Abstract: A predetermined shaped material that surrounds the arms of a steel hair clip such that a large rectangular portion (20) surrounds each arm and a small rectangular middle portion (22) covers the clasp. The small rectangular middle portion prevents hair from getting caught in the clasp. Each large rectangular portion adheres to the hair and compacts allowing the clip to better fit a broader range of hair thicknesses.

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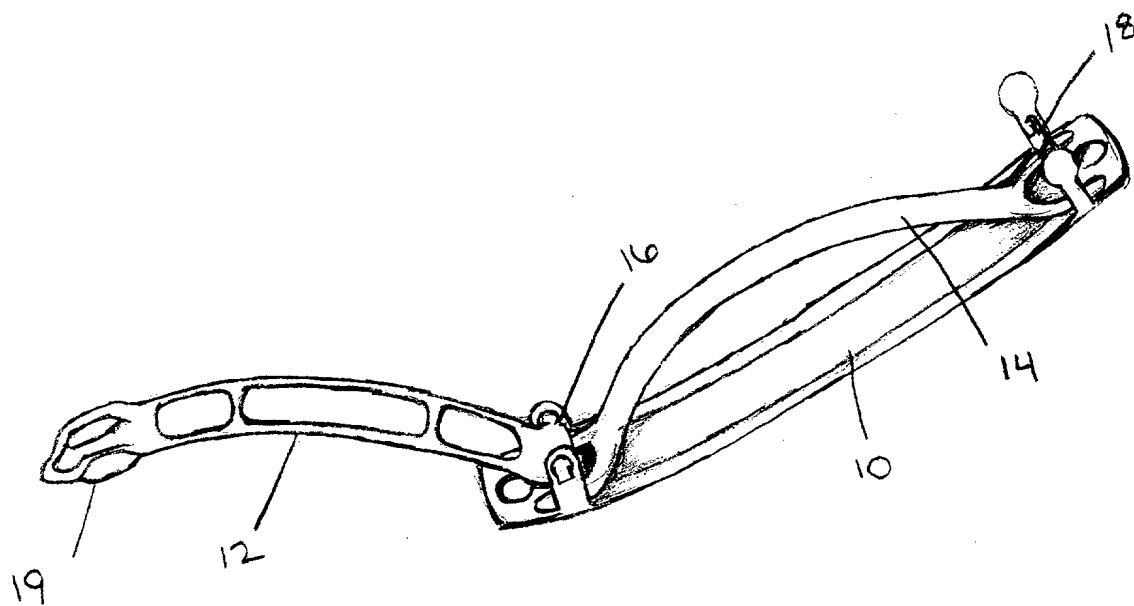


Fig. 1

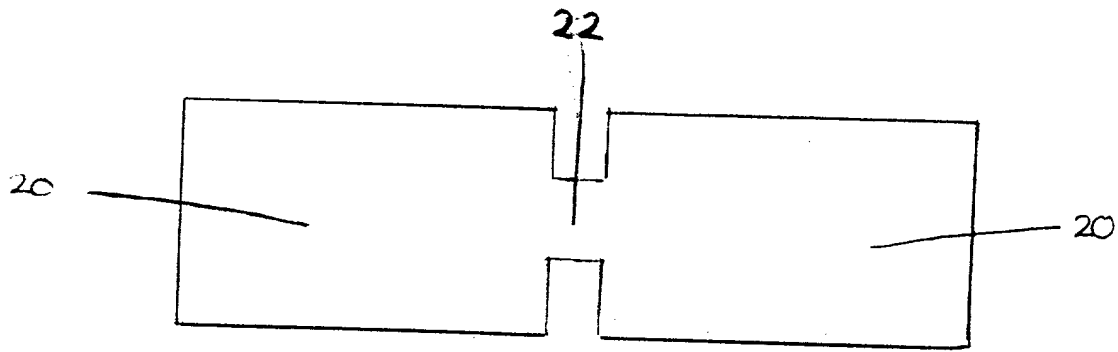


Fig. 2

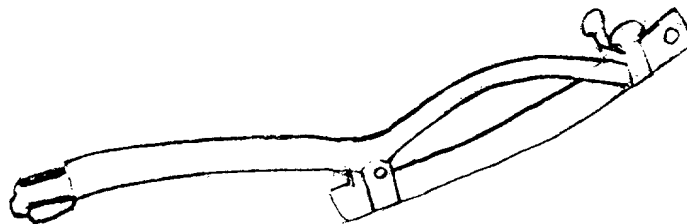


Fig. 3

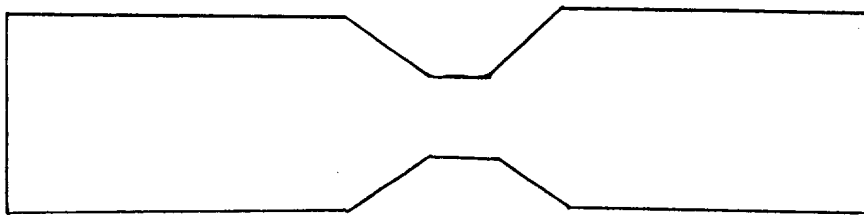


Fig. 4

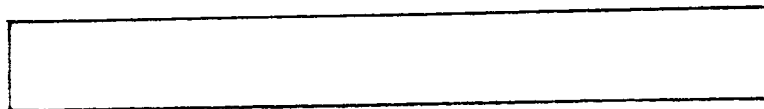


Fig. 5

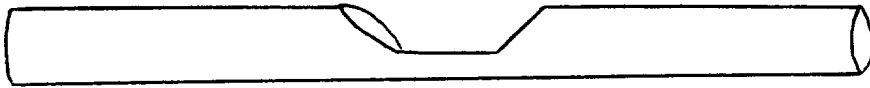


Fig. 6

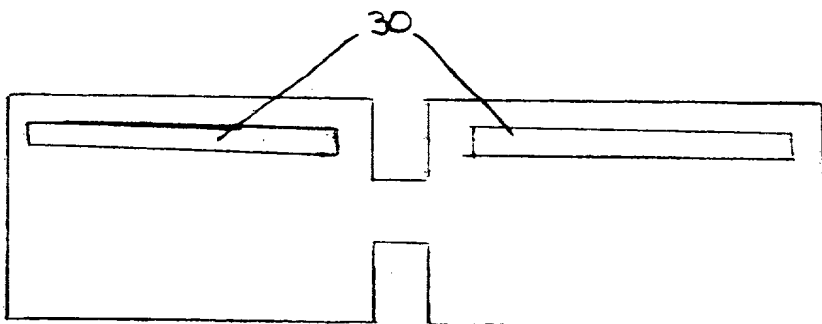


Fig. 7

Declaration for Utility or Design Patent Application

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name and that I believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor [if only one name is listed below] or an original, first, and joint inventor [if plural names are listed below] of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention, the specification of which is attached hereto and which has the following title:

Hair Clip Inner Protector

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration. I acknowledge a duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Please send correspondence and make telephone calls to the First Inventor below.

Signature: Sole/First Inventor: Sarah A. Vogel

Print Name: Sarah A. Vogel Date: 8/1/00

Legal Residence: 4116 Seventh Ave Menlo Park, CA Citizen of: USA

Post Office Address: 94025

Telephone: 650-364-1504

Signature: Joint/Second Inventor: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Legal Residence: * _____ Citizen of: _____

Post Office Address: _____

Telephone: _____

* City and state, county and state or city, state and country, if foreign.